

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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INFO :AMEMBASSY AMMAN 9865
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4331

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, UR, IS
SUBJECT: FAHMY VISIT TO MOSCOW

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 8416, (B) MOSCOW 8514

1. THE MFA DIRECTOR FOR EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS (GOVRIN)
GAVE US ON JUNE 15 THE INITIAL ISRAELI REACTION TO THE VISIT TO
MOSCOW BY EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY.HE SAID
THAT OF THE THREE AREAS DISCUSSED BETWEEN FAHMY AND
GROMYKO--THE MIDDLE EAST, BILATERAL RELATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (ESSENTIALLY AFRICA)--THE ONLY
POINT ON WHICH THE TWO PARTIES REACHED AGREEMENT WAS
THE MIDDLE EAST. ISRAEL HAD NOTED REFERENCES IN THE
JOINT STATEMENT TO THE RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO RETURN
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TO THEIR HOMES AND TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION.
GOVRIN SAID THIS WAS NOT A NEW FORMULATION,
ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS HAD NOT USED IT SINCE
APPROXIMATELY 1967; HE INDICATED THE ISRAELIS
WERE NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS USE.
ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO NOTED THERE WAS NO
MENTION OF THE BREZHNEV PEACE PROPOSALS, WHICH

HE LAST MADE IN HIS TRADE UNION SPEECH, AND
THIS APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT FAHMY WAS UNABLE
TO AGREE TO THOSE PROPOSALS.

2. THE ISRAELIS HAVE ALSO NOTED REFERENCES DURING
THE DISCUSSIONS TO SOVIET BELIEF THAT AN
IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EGYPT
CAN ONLY BE PART OF AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN
THE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
GOVRIN SAID IT IS HIS JUDGEMENT THAT IT IS IN
SOVIET INTEREST EVEN MORE THAN EGYPTIAN INTEREST
TO SEE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR RELATIONS ALTHOUGH
THE SOVIETS MAY TRY TO APPEAR RELUCTANT. IF FOR
NO OTHER REASON, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE
SOVIET UNION TO HAVE BETTER RELATIONS WITH EGYPT
BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT OF THOSE RELATIONS ON THE
CONDUCT OF SOVIET AFFAIRS IN OTHER AFRICAN STATES.
GOVRIN NOTED THE REFERENCE TO THE SOVIET HOPE THAT
EGYPT WOULD PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN AFRICA AND SEES
THIS AS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE TWO GOVERN-
MENTS DO NOT LOOK AT AFRICA THROUGH THE SAME LENS.

3. ON A SEPARATE SUBJECT, GOVRIN NOTED RECENT
SOVIET STATEMENTS THAT THE RED SEA SHOULD BE AN
INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY AND SHOULD NOT BECOME AN
ARAB LAKE. HE SAID THE ISRAELIS FIND THESE
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND ARE PUZZLED THAT THEY
HAVE NOT DRAWN MUCH REACTION FROM THE ARAB STATES.

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4. GOVRIN ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIET PRONOUNCEMENTS
REGARDING THE SUCCESS OF MENAHEM BEGIN IN THE
MAY 17 ELECTION HAD BEEN RATHER CAREFUL AT THE
START BUT HAVE NOW BECOME SOMEWHAT SHARPER. IT
HAS BEEN RATHER INTERESTING, HE SAID, TO NOTE
THAT THE SOVIET STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN CRITICAL
OF DAYAN.
LEWIS

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